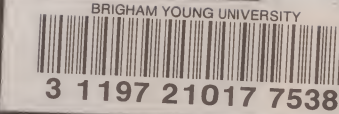


Mormon Pioneer

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Historic Trail
Illinois / Iowa / Nebraska / Wyoming / Utah



DEPOSITED BY
U.S. GOVERNMENT

DO NOT
CIRCULATE

BYU Library
Map Collection
The Trail Yesterday

The Mormons of the 1840s through the 1860s were very much a part of the great westward surge that began in the 1820s when fur trappers started exploring the west, searching out mountain passes for vital water sources, and continued through the westward travel of traders, missionaries, and land-hungry settlers, to the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. Eventually more than 300,000 emigrants went to Oregon and California. The some 70,000 Mormons who immigrated to their new Zion were an integral element of this national westward movement.

During the Mormon emigrant period, the Pony Express rose and fell, and the transcontinental telegraph line and the Union Pacific Railroad were completed. Stage freight and mail service to Salt Lake were inaugurated and federal wagon roads were surveyed and constructed. The Mormons were, in one way or another, involved with all these ventures.

The pioneer Mormon migration was in many ways unique in comparison to other migrations because of its purpose, organization, and cultural impact. Its purpose was to maintain the cohesiveness of the Mormon community and thus became a permanent movement of a whole people. Mormon pioneers were poorer than most, did not employ professional guides, but relied heavily on western travel accounts, and travelled as a community of family groups.

The Mormons' trail experience, while unique, was very much like that of their contemporary Oregonians and Californians. West of the Missouri River, Mormons shared trails, campgrounds, ferries, triumphs, tragedies, and all the common trail experiences of the day, with thousands of other Americans. Daily routines, food, wagons, animals, sicknesses, dangers, difficulties, domestic affairs, trail constitutions, disciplines, and the blurring of sexual roles relative to work, were similar for all those who moved west.

The 1,297-mile-long trail can be divided into two parts: the nearly 265-mile-long section across Iowa, and the 1,032-mile-long segment across the Great Plains of Nebraska and Wyoming into Utah. The Iowa portion of the trail was mainly used by the Mormons fleeing Illinois in 1846, and by some other Mormons jumping off from Keokuk, Iowa, in 1853. The second portion of the trail followed generally what is sometimes called the Great Platte River Road or the north branch of the Oregon Trail, which had always been regarded as the most advantageous approach to the easiest crossing of the Rocky Mountains.

The Pioneers

Mormon history officially began April 6, 1830, when Joseph Smith organized the Mormon Church in Fayette, New York. In January 1831, the church moved to the area of Kirtland, Ohio. Shortly after the move to Ohio, Smith established a second headquarters in Jackson County, Missouri.

New England Mormons were very unpopular in wild western Missouri. Trouble with rough frontier Missourians was not long in coming, and by November 1833, most Mormons were driven from Jackson County into

adjacent Clay County. The Mormons stayed in Clay County until the summer of 1836, when they were pressured to move northeast into the almost uninhabited upper part of Ray County.

The troubles that broke out in Missouri during August 1838 were the beginning of the end for the Mormons in Missouri. By November of that year, the general expulsion from Missouri was well under way, and by spring 1839, nearly all Missouri Mormons had fled to Iowa and Illinois.

In the spring of 1839, Smith again set up church headquarters at a new settlement in Illinois named Nauvoo. The name was derived from a Hebrew root meaning a beautiful place, or the "green pastures" of the 23rd Psalm. Nauvoo quickly became one of the largest cities in Illinois. Hostility, suspicions, and trouble increased in direct proportion to the church's growth and success. The political, economic, social, and religious problems that had previously caused trouble in Ohio and Missouri, led to the Mormons' expulsion from Illinois early in 1846.

This time, however, the Mormons would not move from one state to another. Instead they decided to leave the United States and settle in the west, in what was then Mexico, in a new Zion somewhere in the Rocky Mountain area.

The First Emigrants

In February 1846, Brigham Young and a group of Mormons departed Nauvoo, Illinois, crossing the Mississippi River into Iowa. From there, they pioneered an overland route with way-stations across Iowa and wintered on the Missouri River near present-day Omaha, Nebraska. Others followed and by the end of 1846, over 3,700 Mormons were settled at Winter Quarters, Nebraska, and in Kanesville (present-day Council Bluffs), Iowa. In spite of long preparations for leaving Nauvoo, the Mormons were not at all well prepared. It took the group a month to travel 100 miles, an average of only 3 miles a day. Reaching the Council Bluffs area early in June, the pioneers established temporary quarters, planted crops, and made preparations to continue the following spring.

On April 19, 1847, President Brigham Young and a pioneer company of 144 men, women, and children continued westward. This time the groups were better prepared. The company was organized in semi-military fashion into tens, fifties, and hundreds. Members of the group were selected for their skills and talents — with a view to making roads, building bridges, erecting temporary quarters, and other pioneering skills. Equipment included scientific instruments to aid in mapping the road for those to follow.

By July 23rd the pioneers crossed Big Mountain Pass and entered their new homeland, the Great Basin — a vast and forbidding area of over 200,000 square miles. The valley was the first site suitable for Kingdom Building that the pioneer leaders had seen since Nauvoo. A city was laid out, crops planted, and homes, a fort, and a site for worship services prepared.

Thirty-five days after he arrived, Young was ready to return to Winter

Quarters to prepare the next season's emigrants for the move west.

For the next twenty years, the Mormons established semi-permanent communities and ferry crossings of major importance. They graded down steep approaches to fords, cleared boulders out of the trail, and made the route easier. These efforts resulted in a two-way wagon road used to pick up supplies and new converts at the Missouri River or to meet faltering companies and help them on to Salt Lake City. In southern Iowa particularly, the Mormons established some of the first communities, roads, and bridges. They made Winter Quarters (Omaha) and Kanesville (Council Bluffs) into outfitting points that rivaled the Missouri towns of Independence, Westport, and St. Louis. By 1860, the original 159 pioneers who entered the valley in 1847 had expanded to 30,000. The exodus had been a success.



Council Bluffs Ferry.

Enjoy the Trail

Some of the sites on the trail are privately owned and do not have public access. Please respect these property owners' rights.

Obey posted signs and use designated roads and parking areas. Protect trail resources by staying off historic buildings, ruins, and other structures. Please do not use metal-detectors or dig at sites — collect artifacts, or remove anything that doesn't belong to you — or carve on trees, posts, walls, or other surfaces.

Remain alert, and aware of your surroundings, and where you (and your feet) are. Don't assume that warning signs are posted everywhere hazards exist. Keep an eye on the whereabouts of your children. Leave wild and domestic animals alone. Don't forget to provide for your pets. Watch for extreme weather conditions and high fire danger. Know where the nearest emergency help can be found.

Stop at local chambers of commerce and information centers to learn about trail-related sites and other interesting features and activities. Many trail sites lack amenities, so plan ahead by using public rest rooms and other facilities while you are still in town.

Sites of Interest

[1] Nauvoo — The Historic District includes 1,100 acres of restored homes and shops, including the Brigham Young house. Two visitor centers have exhibits, audio visual and living history programs, guided tours, and demonstrations.

[2] Montrose Landing — After crossing the Mississippi River in 1846, the first emigrants landed here. The site is commemorated by a bronze marker. This was also the site of an 1837 fort occupied by settlers in 1838-1839 after being driven out of Missouri and before moving on to Nauvoo.

[3] Des Moines River Crossing — This is the trail's first major river crossing west of the Mississippi. The first emigrants crossed on March 5, 1846. The site is marked at U.S. Highway 79. The Van Buren County Historical Museum is in Bonaparte.

[4] Lacey-Keosauqua State Park — Ely's Ford, the site of a later Des Moines River crossing is commemorated with a stone monument. The original crossing was approximately 1½ miles south. Nearby are the graves of two Mormon infants who died in March 1846.

[5] "Come, Come Ye Saints" (Locust Creek Camp Site) — Church leader and pioneer William Clayton, inspired by the birth of his son, wrote the words to the famous Mormon hymn on April 13, 1846. There is a marker at the entrance of Tharp Cemetery.

[6] Wayne County Historical Museum — The museum in Corydon has elaborate exhibits, including one devoted to the Mormon trek west. Of special interest is a full-sized replica of an emigrant family and their wagon and oxen team.

[7] Garden Grove — There are trail monuments in a small park 1 mile west of Garden Grove. Here an advance party made camp on April 25, 1846, and within 2 weeks cleared 300 acres of land, planted crops, built log houses, and cut 10,000 surplus rails for fencing, and enough logs to

build an additional 40 houses. Garden Grove continued to be used as a way station for the duration of the Mormon migration west.

[8] Mount Pisgah — Like Garden Grove, this became a permanent camp on the trail. Named for its biblical counterpart, it served as a way station until 1852. The park contains many monuments and markers.

[9] Mormon Trail Park — Two miles east of Bridgewater this 160-acre park commemorates the trail, which ran 1 mile to the south.

[10] Cold Springs Park — Extremely dim traces of the historic trail route cross the fields within the park.

[11] Council Bluffs (Kanesville) — The importance of this area to American western expansion dates back to 1804, when Lewis and Clark met with Indians near the site. Permanent signs of settlement came in 1824 when a trading post was built. The Mormons called the area Kanesville. Sites important to the Mormon journey west include the Grand Encampment, a staging site for pioneers enroute to the Rocky Mountains, Mormon Battalion Mustering Grounds, Middle Mormon Ferry, Council Point, and Emigrants Landing. (Markers can be found at most of these sites.)

[12] Omaha area — Three separate encampments in the Omaha area served as wintering grounds for the pioneers — Cold Spring Camp, Cutler's Park, and the most famous, Winter Quarters. A visitor center, cemetery and Florence Mill, the only remaining historic building from the encampments, mark the site of Winter Quarters.

[13] Crossing of the Elkhorn River — The first major river crossing west of the Missouri River is 1 mile south of the town of Elkhorn. No public access.

[14] Liberty Pole Camp — In Fremont's Barnard Park, a monument identifies the Mormon camp where pioneers organized themselves in a military manner on April 17, 1847. This was done to increase travelling safety and efficiency.

[15] Fremont Lakes State Recreation Area — There is a plaque noting the pioneer trek located just west of Fremont on U.S. Highway 30.

[16] 100th Meridian — This marks the entry into the "Great American Desert" by all pioneer groups. It was believed traditional farming methods would not work west of here because of meager rainfall.

[17] Famous Odometer Start — Several pioneers invented a "roadometer," a device that was attached to a wagon wheel to measure miles traveled. Prior to this William Clayton had kept track of distance by tying a red cloth to a wagon wheel and counting its revolutions. The "roadometer" and his detailed journal assisted Clayton in publishing his famous "The Latter-day Saints' Emigrants' Guide."

[18] Ash Hollow State Historical Park — The hollow on the south side of the North Platte River is noted as the spot where the Oregon Trail struck the river. Mormon pioneers used the location to determine their position.

[19] Ancient Bluff Ruins — This dramatic and extensive bluff formation on the trail shows a short section of well-defined trail ruts. No public access. The site can be seen from the marker on U.S. Highway 26.

[20] Chimney Rock — After weeks of travelling the flatlands of Nebraska, pioneers saw this dramatic landmark days before reaching it. One traveller complained that he rode four days and never got any closer! Almost every pioneer diary mentions this National Historic Site.

[21] Rebecca Winters Grave — This is one of the few known graves of the nearly six thousand Mormons who died crossing the plains. It symbolizes the many deaths and hardships on the trail faced by pioneer women and children. It is between U.S. Highway 26 and the railroad, 3 miles east of Scottsbluff.

[22] Scotts Bluff National Monument — This National Park Service site was not visited by the 1847 pioneer groups, but was an important stopping

place for later groups. The bluffs also served as a landmark for all westward travellers.

[23] Fort Laramie (Fort Platte and Fort John) — Fort John, originally called Fort William, was the first trading post in the Rocky Mountain area built by the American Fur Company. The site was purchased by the U.S. Government in June 1849 to serve as a focal point for military operations in the northern plains and mountains. Now called Fort Laramie, it was a popular resting place for all emigrants. About a mile from the fort's cemetery are the "Old Bedlam" trail ruts. Old Bedlam was the nickname of a garrison at Fort Laramie. The ruins of Fort Platte, built in 1841, are just west of Fort Laramie.

[24] Mexican Hill — This steep, dramatic cut through the river bluffs still shows signs of trail ruts. No public access. The site can be seen from the rest area on U.S. Highway 26.

[25] Register Cliff & Oregon-Mormon Pioneer Trail Route (Guernsey State Park) — Here is some of the most dramatic and visible evidence of America's westward migration. Register Cliff was a favorite place for emigrants to leave messages or carve their names and the date in the soft sandstone. In the park, 1½ miles from the Cliff are shoulder deep wagon ruts cut through solid rock.

[26] Ayres Natural Bridge Park — This natural red rock area provided good water, shelter and forage for animals, making it a natural campsite for pioneers on the Mormon and Oregon trails. The tradition continues today with modern picnic tables and camping facilities.

[27] Fort Caspar Museum/Mormon Ferry — Mormon pioneers established the first commercial ferry on the Platte River in June 1847. The first passengers were Missourians headed for Oregon. The Fort Caspar Museum has an excellent Mormon exhibit, and a full-sized replica of the original Mormon Ferry.

[28] Emigrant Gap — Travelers on the Oregon-California-Mormon Trail

passed through this shallow gap and began their ascent into the Rocky Mountains. With little development to the west, the view today is much like it would have been in 1847.

[29] Avenue of Rocks — The natural rock formations jut up out of the Wyoming rangeland, forcing the trail to wind down through the rocks. Most of the Avenue has been destroyed by construction of the Oregon Trail Road. Some emigrant signatures can still be seen in the area.

[30] Willow Springs — These springs provided the only good water and camp site for 50 miles between the Platte and Sweetwater rivers used by trappers and traders as well as emigrants. No public access. The site can be seen from Oregon Trail Road.

[31] Prospect (Ryan) Hill — The crest of this 400-foot hill provided emigrants with a view of the valley of the Sweetwater River, and the hope of good "prospects" for better water and an easier road. There are trail ruts approximately ¼ mile northwest of the road.

[32] Independence Rock — Not far from this famous landmark emigrants reached the refreshing waters of the Sweetwater River. Named by fur trappers who arrived here on July 4, names and signs can still be seen on the rock face. There is a rest area on U.S. Highway 220 adjacent to this site.

[33] Devil's Gate/Martin's Cove — This site was often used as an emigrant campground and later as a mail relay, transcontinental telegraph, and mule pack train station. Captain Edward Martin's 6th Handcart Company from England sheltered nearby during a severe November snowstorm in 1856. Of 576 pioneers, 145 died from exposure and lack of food. No public access. The site can be seen from the nearby BLM exhibit area.

[34] Split Rock — This landmark is located in the Sweetwater Rocks. The cleft in the top was used by Indians, trappers, and emigrants. Trail ruts are still evident. No public access. The site can be seen from the BLM exhibit

[35] Ice Slough — Under these springs was a source of pure ice even into late summer, insulated by 4 to 6 inches of water and grassy sod, thick enough to bear a man's weight.

[36] Rocky Ridge — After following the gentle landscape of the Sweetwater River floodplain, the trail turns away and up into a rocky, landscape, making travel difficult and jarring. This area was mentioned in William Clayton's journal.

[37] Willie's Handcart Disaster Site — Seventy-seven members of Captain James G. Willie's handcart company died at Rock Creek in October 1856 when the group was caught in an early snowstorm while waiting for relief parties to reach them from Utah. No public access. The site can be seen from Oregon Trail Road.

[38] South Pass — Called the "Cumberland Gap of the Far West," pioneers crossed the Continental Divide through South Pass. At 7,550 feet, it is the second highest point along the trail. The grade was gentle, and easy for covered wagons.

[39] Pacific Springs — This campsite, named because it was the first source of water on the Pacific slope, became a Mormon station. This is also the site of an abandoned gold mining town.

[40] Parting of the Ways/Sublette Cutoff — This marks the fork in the route where emigrants continuing to Oregon could take a shortcut across the Little Colorado Desert to Bear River or continue on the main route of the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails. The shorter route, known as the Sublette Cutoff, was a waterless track of 50 miles that did not become popular until the gold rush days.

[41] Dry Sandy — Emigrants crossing the Dry Sandy might find themselves stuck in the wet boggy sands where the river flows more below than above ground. To get potable water, pioneers had to dig deep holes. Some of these water pits are still visible today.

[42] Little Sandy Station — The first

group of Mormon pioneers camped here on June 28, 1847, and met Jim Bridger who gave them valuable advice about the route ahead.

[43] Lombard Ferry — Mormon pioneers built rafts and floated wagons across the Green River at this point. In 1847 they built a ferry and provided a commercial ferry service for travelers, adjacent to the present U.S. Highway 28 bridge.

[44] Church Butte — Also called Solomon Temple because of its shape, it is believed that church services were held here. Take the Church Butte interchange on I-80 and follow old U.S. Highway 30 about 10 minutes to the site.

[45] Fort Bridger/Bridger Trading Post — One of three settlements on the trail at the time of the pioneer journey, the trading post was later a military post. The Mormons bought the fort in 1855 to supply emigrant parties. Only a portion of a wall built by the Mormons remains of the original buildings. The fort museum has exhibits about the trail.

[46] Bear River Crossing — The last major river crossing in Wyoming. Near here was an oil spring, a source of lubrication for wagons. No public access. The site can be seen from the U.S. Highway 89 bridge.

[47] The Needles — Near this 7,600-foot formation of conglomerate rock, Brigham Young came down with a violent attack of sickness, delaying his entry into the Salt Lake area. No public access. The site is located about 8 miles southwest of Evanston on Coyote Creek.

[48] Cache Cave — This was the first major campsite for emigrants in Utah. No public access. The area can be seen from I-80.

[49] Echo Canyon — The narrow, 16-mile gorge impressed pioneers with its peculiar echo. The canyon also includes breastworks constructed in 1857 in response to a rumored invasion by federal troops to suppress a Mormon rebellion.

[50] Weber River Crossing — Only

[51] Hogsback Summit — From this summit the emigrants got their first look at the mountains they still had to cross. About a ¼ mile away are some very faint ruts.

[52] Little Emigration Canyon — This is the only pristine portion of the trail in Utah. It is marked by a 4.2 mile hiking trail. The entrance to this canyon is "guarded" by the 1857 breastworks.

[53] Big Mountain Pass — This is the third highest point on the entire trail. From here emigrants caught their first view of their new home — the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. The Donner party blazed the original trail through this area, taking fifteen days to accomplish the task. This proved disastrous when they were later caught in a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada. A year later, the Mormons took just six days to travel the same distance.

[54] Little Mountain Summit/Emigration Canyon/Last Camp — This was the last summit the pioneers had to cross before reaching the Great Basin, and also some of the most difficult terrain of the entire journey. Most pioneers made one final camp here before entering the Salt Lake Valley.

[55] Donner Hill — Site of the Donner-Reed party's time-consuming climb out of Emigration Canyon in 1846. A survivor wrote "we doubled teams, almost every yoke in the train (of 23 wagons) being required to pull up each wagon." The 1847 pioneer party found an easier route to the Salt Lake Valley.

[56] This is the Place Monument (Pioneer Trail State Park) — Pioneer Trail State Park, marks the spot where Woodruff's carriage paused on July 24, 1847, and Brigham Young observed the Great Salt Lake Valley. The site is marked by a 60-foot high, 84-foot wide memorial that honors the Mormon pioneers and others who explored the Great Basin. The state park has a visitor center and living-history museum.

area off U.S. Highway 287.

[35] Ice Slough — Under these springs was a source of pure ice even into late summer, insulated by 4 to 6 inches of water and grassy sod, thick enough to bear a man's weight.

[36] Rocky Ridge — After following the gentle landscape of the Sweetwater River floodplain, the trail turns away and up into a rocky, landscape, making travel difficult and jarring. This area was mentioned in William Clayton's journal.

[37] Willie's Handcart Disaster Site — Seventy-seven members of Captain James G. Willie's handcart company died at Rock Creek in October 1856 when the group was caught in an early snowstorm while waiting for relief parties to reach them from Utah. No public access. The site can be seen from Oregon Trail Road.

[38] South Pass — Called the "Cumberland Gap of the Far West," pioneers crossed the Continental Divide through South Pass. At 7,550 feet, it is the second highest point along the trail. The grade was gentle, and easy for covered wagons.

[39] Pacific Springs — This campsite, named because it was the first source of water on the Pacific slope, became a Mormon station. This is also the site of an abandoned gold mining town.

[40] Parting of the Ways/Sublette Cutoff — This marks the fork in the route where emigrants continuing to Oregon could take a shortcut across the Little Colorado Desert to Bear River or continue on the main route of the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails. The shorter route, known as the Sublette Cutoff, was a waterless track of 50 miles that did not become popular until the gold rush days.

[41] Dry Sandy — Emigrants crossing the Dry Sandy might find themselves stuck in the wet boggy sands where the river flows more below than above ground. To get potable water, pioneers had to dig deep holes. Some of these water pits are still visible today.

[42] Little Sandy Station — The first

group of Mormon pioneers camped here on June 28, 1847, and met Jim Bridger who gave them valuable advice about the route ahead.

[43] Lombard Ferry — Mormon pioneers built rafts and floated wagons across the Green River at this point. In 1847 they built a ferry and provided a commercial ferry service for travelers, adjacent to the present U.S. Highway 28 bridge.

[44] Church Butte — Also called Solomon Temple because of its shape, it is believed that church services were held here. Take the Church Butte interchange on I-80 and follow old U.S. Highway 30 about 10 minutes to the site.

[45] Fort Bridger/Bridger Trading Post — One of three settlements on the trail at the time of the pioneer journey, the trading post was later a military post. The Mormons bought the fort in 1855 to supply emigrant parties. Only a portion of a wall built by the Mormons remains of the original buildings. The fort museum has exhibits about the trail.

[46] Bear River Crossing — The last major river crossing in Wyoming. Near here was an oil spring, a source of lubrication for wagons. No public access. The site can be seen from the U.S. Highway 89 bridge.

[47] The Needles — Near this 7,600-foot formation of conglomerate rock, Brigham Young came down with a violent attack of sickness, delaying his entry into the Salt Lake area. No public access. The site is located about 8 miles southwest of Evanston on Coyote Creek.

[48] Cache Cave — This was the first major campsite for emigrants in Utah. No public access. The area can be seen from I-80.

[49] Echo Canyon — The narrow, 16-mile gorge impressed pioneers with its peculiar echo. The canyon also includes breastworks constructed in 1857 in response to a rumored invasion by federal troops to suppress a Mormon rebellion.

[50] Weber River Crossing — Only

[51] Hogsback Summit — From this summit the emigrants got their first look at the mountains they still had to cross. About a ¼ mile away are some very faint ruts.

[52] Little Emigration Canyon — This is the only pristine portion of the trail in Utah. It is marked by a 4.2 mile hiking trail. The entrance to this canyon is "guarded" by the 1857 breastworks.

[53] Big Mountain Pass — This is the third highest point on the entire trail. From here emigrants caught their first view of their new home — the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. The Donner party blazed the original trail through this area, taking fifteen days to accomplish the task. This proved disastrous when they were later caught in a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada. A year later, the Mormons took just six days to travel the same distance.

[54] Little Mountain Summit/Emigration Canyon/Last Camp — This was the last summit the pioneers had to cross before reaching the Great Basin, and also some of the most difficult terrain of the entire journey. Most pioneers made one final camp here before entering the Salt Lake Valley.

[55] Donner Hill — Site of the Donner-Reed party's time-consuming climb out of Emigration Canyon in 1846. A survivor wrote "we doubled teams, almost every yoke in the train (of 23 wagons) being required to pull up each wagon." The 1847 pioneer party found an easier route to the Salt Lake Valley.

[56] This is the Place Monument (Pioneer Trail State Park) — Pioneer Trail State Park, marks the spot where Woodruff's carriage paused on July 24, 1847, and Brigham Young observed the Great Salt Lake Valley. The site is marked by a 60-foot high, 84-foot wide memorial that honors the Mormon pioneers and others who explored the Great Basin. The state park has a visitor center and living-history museum.

[57] Hogsback Summit — From this summit the emigrants got their first look at the mountains they still had to cross. About a ¼ mile away are some very faint ruts.

[58] Little Emigration Canyon — This is the only pristine portion of the trail in Utah. It is marked by a 4.2 mile hiking trail. The entrance to this canyon is "guarded" by the 1857 breastworks.

[59] Big Mountain Pass — This is the third highest point on the entire trail. From here emigrants caught their first view of their new home — the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. The Donner party blazed the original trail through this area, taking fifteen days to accomplish the task. This proved disastrous when they were later caught in a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada. A year later, the Mormons took just six days to travel the same distance.

[60] Little Mountain Summit/Emigration Canyon/Last Camp — This was the last summit the pioneers had to cross before reaching the Great Basin, and also some of the most difficult terrain of the entire journey. Most pioneers made one final camp here before entering the Salt Lake Valley.

[61] Donner Hill — Site of the Donner-Reed party's time-consuming climb out of Emigration Canyon in 1846. A survivor wrote "we doubled teams, almost every yoke in the train (of 23 wagons) being required to pull up each wagon." The 1847 pioneer party found an easier route to the Salt Lake Valley.

[62] This is the Place Monument (Pioneer Trail State Park) — Pioneer Trail State Park, marks the spot where Woodruff's carriage paused on July 24, 1847, and Brigham Young observed the Great Salt Lake Valley. The site is marked by a 60-foot high, 84-foot wide memorial that honors the Mormon pioneers and others who explored the Great Basin. The state park has a visitor center and living-history museum.

[63] Hogsback Summit — From this summit the emigrants got their first look at the mountains they still had to cross. About a ¼ mile away are some very faint ruts.

[64] Little Emigration Canyon — This is the only pristine portion of the trail in Utah. It is marked by a 4.2 mile hiking trail. The entrance to this canyon is "guarded" by the 1857 breastworks.

[65] Big Mountain Pass — This is the third highest point on the entire trail. From here emigrants caught their first view of their new home — the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. The Donner party blazed the original trail through this area, taking fifteen days to accomplish the task. This proved disastrous when they were later caught in a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada. A year later, the Mormons took just six days to travel the same distance.

[66] Little Mountain Summit/Emigration Canyon/Last Camp — This was the last summit the pioneers had to cross before reaching the Great Basin, and also some of the most difficult terrain of the entire journey. Most pioneers made one final camp here before entering the Salt Lake Valley.

[67] Donner Hill — Site of the Donner-Reed party's time-consuming climb out of Emigration Canyon in 1846. A survivor wrote "we doubled teams, almost every yoke in the train (of 23 wagons) being required to pull up each wagon." The 1847 pioneer party found an easier route to the Salt Lake Valley.

[68] This is the Place Monument (Pioneer Trail State Park) — Pioneer Trail State Park, marks the spot where Woodruff's carriage paused on July 24, 1847, and Brigham Young observed the Great Salt Lake Valley. The site is marked by a 60-foot high, 84-foot wide memorial that honors the Mormon pioneers and others who explored the Great Basin. The state park has a visitor center and living-history museum.

[69] Hogsback Summit — From this summit the emigrants got their first look at the mountains they still had to cross. About a ¼ mile away are some very faint ruts.

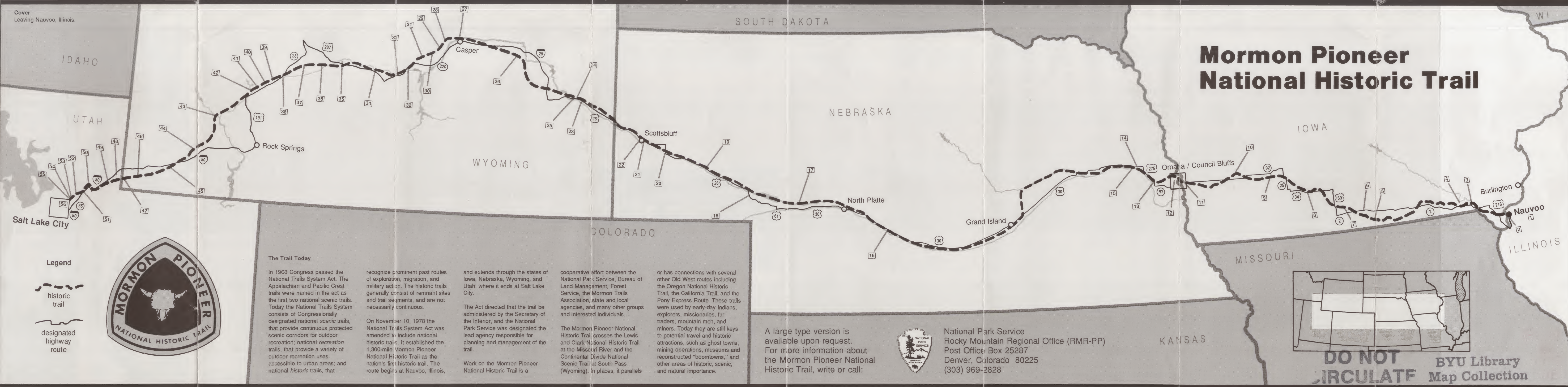
[70] Little Emigration Canyon — This is the only pristine portion of the trail in Utah. It is marked by a 4.2 mile hiking trail. The entrance to this canyon is "guarded" by the 1857 breastworks.

[71] Big Mountain Pass — This is the third highest point on the entire trail. From here emigrants caught their first view of their new home — the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. The Donner party blazed the original trail through this area, taking fifteen days to accomplish the task. This proved disastrous when they were later caught in a winter storm in the Sierra Nevada. A year later, the Mormons took just six days to travel the same distance.

[72] Little Mountain Summit/Emigration Canyon/Last Camp — This was the last summit the pioneers had to cross before reaching the Great Basin, and also some of the most difficult terrain of the entire journey. Most pioneers made one final camp here before entering the Salt Lake Valley.

[73] Donner Hill — Site of the Donner-Reed party's time-consuming climb out of Emigration Canyon in 1846. A survivor wrote "we doubled teams, almost every yoke in the train (

Cover
Leaving Nauvoo, Illinois.



Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail

The Trail Today

In 1968 Congress passed the National Trails System Act. The Appalachian and Pacific Crest trails were named in the act as the first two national scenic trails. Today the National Trails System consists of Congressionally designated national scenic trails, that provide continuous protected scenic corridors for outdoor recreation; national recreation trails, that provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses accessible to urban areas; and national historic trails, that

recognize prominent past routes of exploration, migration, and military action. The historic trails generally consist of remnant sites and trail segments, and are not necessarily continuous.

On November 10, 1978 the National Trails System Act was amended to include national historic trails. It established the 1,300-mile Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail as the nation's first historic trail. The route begins at Nauvoo, Illinois,

and extends through the states of Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Utah, where it ends at Salt Lake City.

The Act directed that the trail be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, and the National Park Service was designated the lead agency responsible for planning and management of the trail.

Work on the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail is a

cooperative effort between the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, the Mormon Trails Association, state and local agencies, and many other groups and interested individuals.

The Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail crosses the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail at the Missouri River and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail at South Pass (Wyoming). In places, it parallels

or has connections with several other Old West routes including the Oregon National Historic Trail, the California Trail, and the Pony Express Route. These trails were used by early-day Indians, explorers, missionaries, fur traders, mountain men, and miners. Today they are still keys to potential travel and historic attractions, such as ghost towns, mining operations, museums and reconstructed "boomtowns," and other areas of historic, scenic, and natural importance.

A large type version is available upon request. For more information about the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, write or call:



National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office (RMR-PP)
Post Office Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225
(303) 969-2828



**DO NOT
CIRCULATE** **BYU Library
Map Collection**